



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

## **SECURITY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS**

**October 23, 2014**

In light of increasing tension in the Middle East region, the U.S. Embassy would like to remind all U.S. citizens to exercise caution and remain aware of their surroundings, regardless of where they are. In particular, the Embassy has been made aware of numerous anti-U.S. and anti-Western posts on various social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook, some simply derogatory, but others calling for violent action against U.S. citizens and others in Saudi Arabia. Many of these are posted in an effort to motivate others to take action and/or to promote fear. The U.S. Embassy expects this type of use of social media to continue and will monitor content.

Your activity online can make you a target in real life. For simple safety tips on using social networking sites, please read the information on [Social Networking Privacy](#).

It is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high. Please follow these good personal security practices:

Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public;

Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;

Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, Saudi Government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;

Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return;

Minimize your profile while in public;

Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran (013-330-3200), the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh (011-488-3800), and U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah (012-667-0080). The emergency number for the Saudi Police, Fire, and Rescue is 999;

Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns;

Report concerns you may have to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, the U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran, or the U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#) can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review the "[Traveler's Checklist](#)," which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad, and enroll with the Department of State or the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or outside the United States and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

**S-09/2014**

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